

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-8 and ADD claim 9 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing transmission of junk mail, ~~the method~~ comprising:
 - relaying ~~an~~ electronic mail from a transmitter to a recipient;
 - sending a warning notice to the transmitter, when the recipient determines that the received electronic mail is a junk mail and sends a reception refusal notice; and
 - issuing a penalty invoice notice to the transmitter, when the recipient sends the reception refusal notice ~~for~~to the same transmitter a particular number of times ~~with respect to the same transmitter~~.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~executing fee processing of feeding back~~ a penalty fee, collected from the transmitter, and feeding back the penalty fee to the recipient.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein an amount equal to the penalty fee feed back~~owed~~ to the recipient is deducted from the charges the recipient is required to pay for maintaining ~~the~~an electronic mail account.
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein if the transmitter sends~~in response to sending the reception refusal notice ~~for~~to the same transmitter another particular number of times, ~~to the same transmitter~~, stopping relaying of electronic mail from the transmitter to the recipient ~~is stopped~~.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the warning notice is ~~issued~~sent after the recipient sends the reception refusal ~~notification~~notice a first time, and the penalty invoice notice is issued when the particular number of times is equal to two.

6. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail relay apparatus, comprising:
a relay unit which relays an electronic mail from an electronic mail address of a transmitter to an electronic mail address of a ~~receiver~~recipient;
a warning notice unit which sends a warning notice to the transmitter, when the recipient determines that the received electronic mail is a junk mail and sends a reception refusal notice; and
a penalty invoice notification unit which issues a penalty invoice notice with respect to the electronic address of the transmitter, when the recipient sends the reception refusal notice ~~for to the same transmitter~~ to the same transmitter a particular number of times ~~with respect to the same transmitter~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program, readable by a computer, containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes~~causing the computer to realize the functions of:

a relay unit which relays an electronic mail from an electronic mail address of a transmitter to an electronic mail address of a ~~receiver~~recipient;
a warning notice unit which sends a warning notice to the transmitter, when the recipient determines that the received electronic mail is a junk mail and sends a reception refusal notice; and
a penalty invoice notification unit which issues a penalty invoice notice with respect to the electronic address of the transmitter, when the recipient sends the reception refusal notice ~~for to the same transmitter~~ to the same transmitter a particular number of times with respect to the same transmitter.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing transmission of junk mail, ~~the method~~ comprising:
relaying an electronic mail from a transmitter to a recipient;
the recipient determining whether the received electronic mail is a junk mail or not, and sending a reception refusal notice when determining that the received electronic mail is a junk mail;
sending a warning notice to the transmitter ~~if~~when the recipient sends the reception refusal notice for a first time; and

issuing a penalty invoice notice to the transmitter if the recipient sends the reception refusal notice ~~for~~ to the same transmitter a particular number of times.

9. (New) A program, readable by a computer, causing the computer to process electronic mail, by:

relaying electronic mail from an electronic mail address of a transmitter to an electronic mail address of a recipient;

sending a warning notice to the transmitter, when the recipient determines that the received electronic mail is junk mail and sends a reception refusal notice; and

issuing a penalty invoice notice with respect to the electronic address of the transmitter, when the recipient sends the reception refusal notice to the same transmitter a particular number of times with respect to the same transmitter.